

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /115 W

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R 221730Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL TRIESTE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 036

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

UNCLAS TRIESTE 0022

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IT, YU

SUBJECT: MERIDIANO ARTICLE ON ZONE B DISPUTE.

REF: TRIESTE 21

SUMMARY. CURRENT ISSUE OF IL MERIDIANO DI TRIESTE, LOCAL WEEKLY WHICH USUALLY REFLECTS VIEWS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL DC LEADERSHIP, CARRIES ARTICLE ON CURRENT ITALO YUGOSLAV DISPUTE OVER ZONE B. ARTICLE CALLS FOR STRENGTHENING OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND FOR RESOLVING JURIDICAL DISPUTES THROUGH FRIENDLY NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY

2. MERIDIANO ARTICLE BEGINS BY NOTING UNPUBLICIZED VISIT TO TRIESTE LAST WEEK OF MINCEV BELOVSKI, PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMISSION OF SOCIALIST ALLIANCE OF YUGOSLAVIA. BELOVSKI, WHO MET WITH TRIESTE PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT ZANETTI AND LOCAL DC PARTY LEADERS ON SUBJECT OF MINORITIES CONFERENCE "ROME 3162" REPORTEDLY STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF CONFERENCE FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND ITALY. MERIDIANO THEN CITES SEVERAL ADDITIONAL LOCAL INITIATIVES TO DEVELOP TIES WITH YUGOSLAVIA AND STATES THAT AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, PETRIC NOTE OF MARCH 15 CAME AS QTE BOLT FROM BLUE UNQTE

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3. MERIDIANO EXPRESSES REGRET THAT GOY SHOULD HAVE SEEN FIT TO DRAMATIZE AND POLEMICIZE WHAT WAS ESSENTIALLY ROUTINE ITALIAN RESTATEMENT OF ITS POSITION ON ZONE B. LANGUAGE OF BELGRADE NOTE AND CHAIN REACTION WHICH IT PAS STARTED HAVE CAUSED DISMAY IN TRIESTE AND FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA. NEVERTHELESS CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF CONCRETE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND COLLABORATION REMAINS ONLY WAY TO RESOLVE HISTORIC GRIEVANCES

4. ON ZONE B ITSELF, MERIDIANO CONTESTS THAT QTE NO DEMOCRATIC PERSON IN ITALY CAN IN GOOD FAITH THINK THAT THE TERRITORY OF THE EX ZONE B, FULLY INTEGRATED INTO THE POLITICAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND ECONOMIC LIFE OF YUGOSLAVIA, COULD RETURN TO ITALY WITHOUT A WAR WHICH WOULD BE THE THIRD WORLD WAR UNQTE. MERIDIANO ALSO STATES THAT PHRASE IN ITALIAN NOTE IMPLYING ITALIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER ZONE B JURIDICALLY UNSOUND AND CALLS FOR QTE FRIENDLY NEGOTIATIONS UNQTE TO RESOLVE JURIDICAL DISPUTE, AS FORESEEN IN LONDON MEMORANDUM

5. MEANWHILE IL PICCOLO HAS AVOIDED FURTHER EDITORIAL COMMENT ON DISPUTE AND COVERED EVOLVING CONTROVERSY RELATIVELY LOW KEY. PRIMORSKI DNEVNIK HAS ALSO AVOIDED NEW EDITORIAL COMMENT BUT HAS GIVEN MAXIMUM COVERAGE TO YUGOSLAV STATEMENTS AND PROTESTS. THUS FAR PUBLIC REACTION IN TRIESTE TO DISPUTE IS MINIMAL. RACKMALES

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